

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 were heretofore pending in the application, of which claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 15-40 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 4, 7-9, and 12-14 were rejected, and claims 41 and 42 were objected to but were otherwise in allowable condition.

Claims 1-40 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New Claims 43- 46 are added as presented above.

In view of the amendments presented above and the detailed comments presented below, It is believed that the rejections entered in the August 6, 2009 Office Action have been overcome. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited.

Applicants do not concede to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled and/or amended claims in the future.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that Claims 41 and 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicants have amended Claim 41 into independent form as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Claim 42 depends from (now independent) Claim 41. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 42 is allowable without being separately amended into independent form by virtue of the dependency from an allowable independent claim.

Claim 41 has also been amended for form and clarity by amendment of the previously presented language in claims 4 and 41. With respect to the language of previously presented

claim 4, the limitation “*components*” is now expanded and explicitly recited as being the “*said signal source, said stretcher, said fiber amplifier, said AOM and said compressor*”. In Claim 41, the previously presented “*pulse laser system*” has been corrected to “*pulsed laser system*”. Claim 41 is also amended to make the correspondence between “*a pulse*” and its spectrum clear.

New Claims

New claims are added to secure additional patent protection.

Support for claim 43 is found in at least paragraphs [0057] and [0108] of Published U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2005/0226286. Support for claim 44 is found in at least paragraphs [0059] and [0069]. Support for claim 45 is found in at least paragraphs [0057]-[0059]. Support for claim 46 is found in at least paragraph [0078].

Applicants respectfully submit claims 43-46 are allowable by virtue of at least the dependency on (now) independent claim 41.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 41- 46 are allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 47-49 recite unique combinations of features not taught or suggested in the references of record. Claims 47-49 also recite limitations found in Claims 41-46, including “*an attenuator module disposed between said signal source and said stretcher*”, which the Examiner found to be allowable in the combination of claim 41. Support for the Claims 47-49 is found in at least the portions of the specification that provide support for Claims 41-46.

As Claims 41-49 are the only pending claims in the application, Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner pass the application to allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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/Richard Turner/
Richard C. Turner
Registration No. 29,710